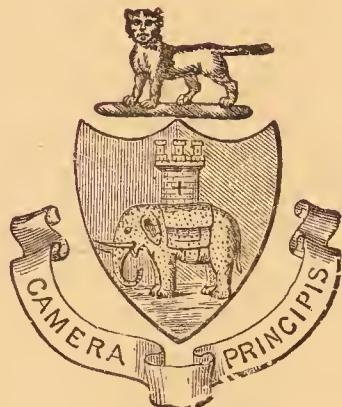


CITY OF COVENTRY.



ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

HEALTH OF THE CITY

BY

E. HUGH SNELL, M.D., B.Sc., Lond.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

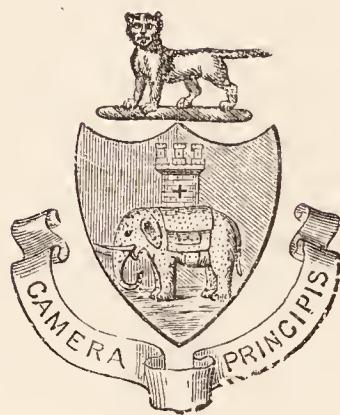
1897.

Coventry:

ROBERTSON AND GRAY, PRINTERS, THEATRE YARD WORKS.

By the order of the Local Government Board, dated March 23, 1891, Article 18, Section 14, it is prescribed that the Medical Officer of Health shall "prepare an Annual Report, to be made to the "end of December in each year, comprising a summary of the "action taken during the year for preventing the spread of "disease, and an account of the sanitary state of his district "generally at the end of the year. The report shall also "contain an account of the enquiries which he has made as to "conditions injurious to health existing in his district, and of "the proceedings in which he has taken part or advised under "the Public Health Act, 1875, so far as such proceedings "relate to those conditions; and also an account of the "supervision exercised by him, or on his advice, for sanitary "purposes over places and houses that the Sanitary Authori- "ties have power to regulate, with the nature and results of "any proceedings which may have been so required and taken "in respect of the same during the year. It shall also record "the action taken by him or on his advice, during the year, in "regard to offensive trades, and to factories and workshops. "The report shall also contain tabular statements (on forms "to be supplied by the Local Government Board, or to the "like effect) of the sickness and mortality within the district, "classified according to diseases, ages, and localities."

CITY OF COVENTRY.



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Coventry:

ROBERTSON AND GRAY, PRINTERS, THEATRE YARD WORKS.

SANITARY COMMITTEE.

MR. COUNCILLOR JOHN MORTON, *Chairman.*

„ „ WILLIAM CALCOTT, *Vice-Chairman.*

THE MAYOR (MR. COUNCILLOR
WEBB FOWLER).

MR. ALDERMAN J. E. BANKS, J.P.
„ „ J. B. LOUDON, J.P.
„ „ J. MARRIOTT, J.P.
„ „ G. SINGER, J.P.

MR. COUNCILLOR W. R. GOATE.

MR. COUNCILLOR A. HORTON.

„ „ W. LEE.
„ „ W. S. LOUDON.
„ „ W. PHILLIPS.
„ „ T. WEBB.
„ „ C. WEST.

TUESDAY—FIXED MEETINGS.

January 11	April 5	June 14	September 6
„ 25	„ 19	„ 28	„ 20
February 8	May 3	July 12	October 4
„ 22	„ 17	„ 26	„ 18
March 8	„ 31	August 9	
„ 22		„ 23	

AT 12 O'CLOCK NOON.

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### SANITARY STAFF.

|                             |       |                                |
|-----------------------------|-------|--------------------------------|
| Inspector of Nuisances      | -     | W. H. CLARKE, Cert. San. Inst. |
| Assistant                   | - - - | CHARLES SUTTON.                |
| Clerk                       | - - - | ARCHIBALD FRASER.              |
| Supt. of Disinfecting Dept. | -     | THOMAS PREEDY.                 |
| Medical Officer of Health   | -     | E. H. SNELL, M.D., D.P.H.      |

## CITY HOSPITAL COMMITTEE.

---

MR. COUNCILLOR J. MORTON, *Chairman.*

„ „ W. CALCOTT, *Vice-Chairman.*

THE MAYOR.

MR. COUNCILLOR A. HORTON.

MR. COUNCILLOR W. LEE.

„ „ W. S. LOUDON.

*FIXED MEETINGS—EVERY FOURTH MONDAY,*

Being in each case the day preceding a meeting of the Sanitary Committee.

AT 2-30 P.M., AT THE CITY HOSPITAL.

---

## CITY HOSPITAL OFFICERS.

Matron - - - - - MISS M. DAVIDSON.

Medical Superintendent - E. H. SNELL, M.D.

---

## ABATTOIR SUB-COMMITTEE.

---

MR. COUNCILLOR J. MORTON, *Chairman.*

„ „ W. CALCOTT, *Vice-Chairman.*

MR. ALDERMAN MARRIOTT.

„ „ LOUDON.

MR. COUNCILLOR HORTON.

„ „ WEBB.



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## CITY OF COVENTRY.

Twenty-Third Annual Report  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

To the Right Worshipful the Mayor, Aldermen  
and Councillors of the City of Coventry.

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,

Having had the honour, in June last, of being appointed Medical Officer of Health to your City, it is one of my duties to submit to you a Report dealing with its sanitary state, and the steps that may have been taken to improve this during that portion of the year 1897 in which I have held office.

It would obviously be not only inconvenient, but very difficult, for me to limit this Report to a portion of the year in that way. I shall therefore attempt, as far as possible, to deal with all those hygienic questions which have from time to time occupied your attention, or that of your Sanitary Committee during the past twelve months; and where it seems possible to make suggestions which might tend towards an improved sanitary administration of your City, I shall do so.

The principal features of the vital statistics for the year have been as follows :—

Estimated population, 61,234.

Birth rate, 31.3.

Marriage rate, 10.1.

Recorded Death rate, 16.8.

Infantile Death rate, 157 per 1000 infants born.

Zymotic Death rate, 1.8.

Sixty-nine per cent. of the zymotic deaths were due to diarrhoea.

Scarlet Fever has been less prevalent than in the three preceding years.

No cases of Small Pox have been notified.

## **Pauperism.**

Mr. Arch has kindly supplied me with the following figures relating to this subject:—

Number of inmates of Workhouse at end of year 1897—400.

Average number of inmates of Workhouse for the previous 5 years—382.

Number of persons who received out-door relief ... —376.

Average number of persons who received out-door relief in previous five years—531.

Actual expenditure in out-door relief in 1897 £1959 5 7

Average yearly expenditure in out-door relief in previous five years ... ... ... £2461 12 7

Decrease in expenditure in out-door relief ... £502 7 0

## **Wards.**

The growth and death-rate of the individual wards are shown by the following table:—

| WARDS.                   | Occupied Houses, 1891 | Vacant Houses, 1891 | Built since 1891. | Vacant Houses, 1897 | Demolished since 1891. | Population 1897 census | Death Rate, 1897. | Av'rege Death Rate for past 5 years. |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Gosford Street . . . . . | 2876                  | 32                  | 560               | 18                  | 57                     | 15,247                 | 15·6              | 14·9                                 |
| Bishop Street . . . . .  | 2742                  | 24                  | 435               | 12                  | 14                     | 14,820                 | 14·5              | 15·1                                 |
| Earl Street . . . . .    | 2182                  | 67                  | 292               | 16                  | 8                      | 12,389                 | 14·6              | 13·8                                 |
| White Friars . . . . .   | 1935                  | 117                 | 36                | 22                  | 25                     | 9,477                  | 12·9              | 15·2                                 |
| Spon Street . . . . .    | 1735                  | 44                  | 108               | 5                   | 48                     | 9,058                  | 14·7              | 13·6                                 |
|                          | 11,470                | 284                 | 1431              | 73                  | 152                    | 60,991                 |                   |                                      |

## **Population.**

In March last you carried out a Census of the Population of the City. The figures obtained were as follows:—

|                     |     |     |        |
|---------------------|-----|-----|--------|
| Gosford Street Ward | ... | ... | 15,247 |
| Bishop Street Ward  | ... | ... | 14,820 |
| Earl Street Ward    | ... | ... | 12,389 |
| White Friars Ward   | ... | ... | 9,477  |
| Spon Street Ward    | ... | ... | 9,058  |
|                     |     |     | —      |
| Total               | ... | ... | 60,991 |

The population of the two parishes was as under—

|                      |     |     |         |
|----------------------|-----|-----|---------|
| Holy Trinity Parish  | ... | ... | 34,502. |
| St. Michael's Parish | ... | ... | 26,489. |

|              | Over 14 years. | Under 14 years. | Total.     |
|--------------|----------------|-----------------|------------|
| Holy Trinity | ... 24,124     | ... 10,378      | ... 34,502 |
| St. Michael  | ... 18,725     | ... 7,764       | ... 26,489 |
|              | —              | —               | —          |
|              | 42,849         | 18,142          | 60,991     |

Total number of premises, 12,938.

Shops, offices, factories, &c., 425.

Houses void, 73.

Houses occupied, 12,440.

Average number of persons per house, 4.9.

With an unofficial census, such as this, there are necessarily associated larger possibilities of error than with an official census. These possible errors are all such as tend towards a diminution of the apparent population. It may therefore be taken as certain that the figure obtained does not err on the side of exaggeration. The population, then, has during the previous six years increased by over 8,000, or 2,000 more than has ever before been recorded in a similar number of years in the history of the City. This large increase of population has been synchronous with and caused by an exceptionally remarkable period of prosperity in connection with the trades of the district.

This, although productive of great benefit commercially, has necessarily led to conditions of overcrowding, and difficulties in the way of the housing problem which are bound, at any rate for the time, to react detrimentally on the health of the inhabitants. In facing this difficulty your Sanitary Committee has, acting on humanitarian principles, possibly somewhat unduly sympathised with the individual efforts that have been made to obtain the best available house accommodation; thereby inevitably taking upon itself all that responsibility in regard to hygienic matters which may be attached to conditions of overcrowding and the occupation of totally unfit and insanitary property.

Efforts have been made to meet this emergency by attempting to formulate a scheme for the erection of cheap labourers' dwellings. Owing to the number and the pressing nature of other schemes with which your hands, and those of your officers, have been occupied, this matter has not yet made that headway which was to be desired. It is possible that this evil may not be without its compensations, since the efforts of private speculation in the way of building the smaller class of houses, which during the last twelve months have been very active, are allowed a full opportunity of meeting the present demand. And on the other hand the conditions of trade, which may perhaps have been somewhat abnormal, are allowed time to graduate themselves to that standard which may in the future be expected. In this way it is possible that you may be able to form a more matured opinion as to the requirements which may be ultimately anticipated.

The evil, nevertheless, remains, and it cannot but be expected that the present overcrowded and badly-housed condition of some portions of the City must have its influence sooner or later on the health of the inhabitants of those parts.

The following Tables record the vital statistics and general growth of the City, as far as information can be acquired.

Coventry was constituted a separate County by Charter of Henry VI., 1451.

Incorporated with the County of Warwick, 1842.

Constituted a County Borough, 1888.

Area = 3,144 $\frac{1}{4}$  acres.

Rateable value, 1897, £202,545.

" " 1887, £127,159 10s.

" " 1877, £104,740 10s.

Density of Population, 1897 = 19.47 per acre.

" " 1896 = 18.55 "

" " 1895 = 17.91 "

" " 1894 = 17.6 "

" " 1893 = 17.5 "

" " 1892 = 17.2 "

" " 1891 = 16.8 "

| Year.               | Houses Inhabited. | Vacant | Building. | Population. | Mortality. | Zymotic Mortality. | Deaths under one year per 1000 born. | Birth Rate. |
|---------------------|-------------------|--------|-----------|-------------|------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1586                | .....             | .....  | .....     | 6,502       | .....      | .....              | .....                                | .....       |
| 1643                | .....             | .....  | .....     | 9,500       | .....      | .....              | .....                                | .....       |
| 1723                | 1,934             | .....  | .....     | .....       | .....      | .....              | .....                                | .....       |
| 1748                | 2,066             | .....  | .....     | 12,817      | 32 ?       | .....              | .....                                | 35 ?        |
| 1801                | 2,930             | .....  | .....     | 16,034      | .....      | .....              | .....                                | .....       |
| 1811                | 3,448             | *60    | 12        | 17,923      | .....      | .....              | .....                                | .....       |
| 1821                | 3,729             | *114   | 38        | 21,448      | .....      | .....              | .....                                | .....       |
| 1831                | 5,444             | *421   | 22        | 27,298      | .....      | .....              | .....                                | .....       |
| 1841                | 6,531             | *590   | 43        | 31,032      | .....      | .....              | .....                                | .....       |
| Ten Years' Average. |                   |        |           |             |            |                    |                                      |             |
| 1851                | 7,783             | *151   | 111       | 36,812      | 27         | .....              | .....                                | .....       |
| 1861                | 8,991             | *1,026 | 24        | 40,936      | 25         | .....              | .....                                | .....       |
| 1871                | 8,535             | *816   | 4         | 37,670      | 22         | .....              | .....                                | .....       |
| 1881                | 9,223             | *643   | 43        | 42,111      | 20         | 3.3                | 150                                  | 35.4        |
| 1891                | 11,496            | *284   | 117       | 52,724      | 18.5       | 1.7                | 142                                  | 32          |
| .....               | .....             | .....  | .....     | .....       | .....      | .....              | .....                                | .....       |
| 1887                | 10,470            | 349    | 199       | 46,500      | 17.1       | 1.4                | 131                                  | 30.8        |
| 1888                | 10,602            | 370    | 166       | 47,500      | 17.3       | 1.2                | 151                                  | 26.8        |
| 1889                | 10,988            | 215    | 93        | 48,500      | 18.8       | 2.3                | 148                                  | 30.9        |
| 1890                | 11,277            | 112    | 201       | 49,500      | 20.4       | 1.9                | 150                                  | 31.3        |
| 1891                | 11,496            | *284   | 117       | 52,724      | 19.6       | 1.6                | 157                                  | 32.1        |
| 1892                | 11,789            | 114    | 92        | 54,000      | 15.4       | .85                | 117                                  | 31.7        |
| 1893                | 11,989            | 165    | 79        | 54,700      | 17.1       | 1.1                | 160                                  | 29.9        |
| 1894                | 12,134            | 213    | 56        | 55,300      | 16.1       | 2.1                | 157                                  | 28.9        |
| 1895                | 12,223            | 261    | .....     | 56,000      | 17.        | 2.                 | 152                                  | 28.1        |
| 1896                | 12,606            | 48     | .....     | 59,151      | 16.3       | 1.8                | 149                                  | 28.3        |
| 1897                | †12,440           | 73     | .....     | 61,234      | 16.8       | 1.8                | 157                                  | 31.3        |

\* This number includes all business offices, whether in dwelling houses or factories, if not occupied on the night the Census was taken.

† This number omits all business offices, factories, etc.

## **Marriages.**

The number of Marriages has been practically the same as in 1896, but the marriage rate has slightly declined.

| Year. | Number of Marriages. | Rate. | Rate for England. |
|-------|----------------------|-------|-------------------|
| 1892  | 416                  | 7.7   | 15.4              |
| 1893  | 403                  | 7.3   | 14.7              |
| 1894  | 451                  | 8.1   | 15.1              |
| 1895  | 471                  | 8.6   | 15.               |
| 1896  | 620                  | 10.6  |                   |
| 1897  | 622                  | 10.1  |                   |

## **Births.**

|                        | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|------------------------|--------|----------|--------|
| Holy Trinity Parish .. | 619    | + 538    | = 1157 |
| St. John's Parish ..   | 391    | + 372    | = 763  |
|                        | 1010   | + 910    | = 1920 |

Birth rate, 31.3.

There were 34 illegitimate births registered, or 1.8 per cent. of the total, against 2 per cent. in 1896, 2.2 in 1895, and 2.5 in 1894.

## **Deaths.**

|                        | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|------------------------|--------|----------|--------|
| Holy Trinity Parish .. | 285    | + 269    | = 554  |
| St. John's Parish ..   | 258    | + 217    | = 475  |
|                        | 543    | 486      | 1029   |

Recorded Death rate, 16.8.

Average Death rate for the previous 10 years, 17.5.

| TOWN.                                 | Population<br>(estimated)<br>1897. | Birth<br>Rate. | Death<br>Rate. | Zymotic<br>Death<br>Rate. | Infantile<br>Death<br>Rate. | Death Rate<br>Average<br>past 5 yrs. |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Birmingham ..                         | 505,772                            | 33.2           | 21.1           | 3.8                       | 214                         | 20.0                                 |
| Nottingham ..                         | 232,935                            | 28.9           | 18.8           | 2.8                       | 206                         | 18.1                                 |
| Leicester ..                          | 203,599                            | 30.6           | 17.7           | 3.1                       | 205                         | 18.3                                 |
| Derby ..                              | 103,291                            | 27.2           | 16.0           | 1.6                       | 167                         | 16.8                                 |
| Wolverhampton ..                      | 87,287                             | 35.1           | 21.8           | 4.6                       | 219                         | 21.34                                |
| St. Helens ..                         | 82,910                             | 38.5           | 21.            | 4.2                       | 181                         | 20.7                                 |
| Northampton ..                        | 66,500                             | 26.3           | 15.6           | 2.4                       | 184                         | 15.1                                 |
| West Bromwich ..                      | 63,000                             | 36.            | 19.7           | 3.4                       | 175                         | 19.                                  |
| <b>COVENTRY ..</b>                    | <b>612,34</b>                      | <b>31.3</b>    | <b>16.8</b>    | <b>1.8</b>                | <b>157</b>                  | <b>16.3</b>                          |
| Burton-on-Trent ..                    | 50,850                             | 28.1           | 14.9           | 1.7                       | 133                         | 16.8                                 |
| Worcester ..                          | 44,505                             | 28.5           | 19.6.          | 2.0                       | 160                         | 19.6                                 |
| England and Wales                     | 31,071,843                         | 29.7           | 17.4           | 2.1                       | 156                         | 18.1                                 |
| 33 Great Towns ..                     |                                    |                | 19.1           | 2.8                       | 177                         |                                      |
| 67 other large<br>Towns.              |                                    |                | 17.2           | 2.4                       | 169                         |                                      |
| England & Wales<br>less the 100 towns |                                    |                | 16.4           | 1.6                       | 138                         |                                      |

The population as shewn by the census of March last was 60,991; the figure on which the death and other rates are calculated is the estimated population at the middle of the year; this is obtained by adding the number of births, and subtracting the number of deaths that took place in the succeeding three months — this figure is 61,234.

The Death rate is then 16.8. This is what is known as the *recorded* death rate. In comparing this death rate with that of other towns it is necessary to make some reservations; for there are certain differences in the distribution of the populations of different towns in the matter of age and sex, which materially affect the death rate quite apart from the consideration of sanitary conditions. Thus an undue preponderance of females, or again of persons between the ages of 5 and 55 will tend to lower the recorded death rate, because the mortality of females is less than that of males, and that of people between 5 and 55 years of age is less than that of persons below or above those ages.

Conversely an undue preponderance of males, or of children under 5, or of people over 55, will cause the death rate to be higher than it would be with a normally constituted population.

Thus it is that in rapidly growing commercial towns, where there is an influx of young adults, the death rate per thousand is reduced below what it otherwise would be. In order to estimate what effect these factors have in altering the death rate, it is necessary to compare the population of this City in the matter of age and sex distribution with that of the whole community. This is done in the following tables, where the composition of each 1000 of the population of Coventry in 1891 is compared with the composition of each 1,000 of England and Wales at the same date:—

| Age distribution<br>of Population,<br>1891.       | All ages. | Under 5. | 5-10 | 10-15 | 15-20 | 20-25 | 25-35 | 35-45 | 45-55 | 55-65 | 65-75 | 75 & upwards |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----------|----------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------------|
| England & Wales                                   | 1000      | 122      | 117  | 111   | 101   | 91    | 151   | 115   | 86    | 62    | 34    | 13           |
| Coventry ..                                       | 1000      | 116      | 114  | 108   | 106   | 99    | 154   | 111   | 80    | 59    | 36    | 13           |
| Age and Sex distribution of the same populations. |           |          |      |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |              |
| England & Wales                                   |           |          |      |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |              |
| males                                             | 485       | 61       | 58   | 56    | 51    | 43    | 72    | 56    | 41    | 27    | 15    | 6            |
| females                                           | 515       | 62       | 59   | 56    | 51    | 48    | 79    | 59    | 45    | 36    | 19    | 8            |
| Coventry                                          | { males   | 486      | 58   | 57    | 53    | 52    | 50    | 75    | 54    | 38    | 28    | 6            |
|                                                   | { females | 514      | 58   | 57    | 56    | 54    | 49    | 80    | 57    | 41    | 31    | 7            |

From these figures it is possible to calculate the *corrected* death rate; this figure is 17.4; which means that, were the population of Coventry constituted like that of England and Wales, so far as sex and age distribution are concerned, the death rate instead of being 16.8 would have been 17.4; this exactly corresponds with that of England and Wales for the year.

TABLE OF DEATHS DURING THE YEAR 1897, IN THE COVENTRY URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO DISEASES, AGES, AND LOCALITIES.

MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES, AT  
SUBJOINED AGES.MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER  
FIVE YEARS OF AGE.
| (a) | | (b) | | (c) | | (d) | | (e) | | (f) | | (g) | | (h) | | (i) | | 65 and upwards. | | 25 and under 65. | | 15 and under 5. | | 5 and under 5. | | Under 1 year. | | Entertic or Typhoid. | | Puerperal. | | Erysipelas. | | Measles. | | Whooping Cough. | | Diarrhoea and Dysentery. | | Phthisis. | | Bronchitis, Pleurisy. | | Monilia and Pneu- | | Influenza. | | Injuries. | | All other Diseases. | | TOTAL | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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(bb) | | (cc) | | (dd) | | (ee) | | (ff) | | (gg) | | (hh) | | (ii) | | (jj) | | (kk) | | (ll) | | (mm) | | (nn) | | (oo) | | (pp) | | (qq) | | (rr) | | (ss) | | (tt) | | (uu) | | (vv) | | (ww) | | (xx) | | (yy) | | (zz) | | (aa) | | (bb) | | (cc) | | (dd) | | (ee) | | (ff) | | (gg) | | (hh) | | (ii) | | (jj) | | (kk) | | (ll) | | (mm) | | (nn) | | (oo) | | (pp) | | (qq) | | (rr) | | (ss) | | (tt) | | (uu) | | (vv) | | (ww) | | (xx) | | (yy) | | (zz) | | (aa) | | (bb) | | (cc) | | (dd) | | (ee) | | (ff) | | (gg) | | (hh) | | (ii) | | (jj) | | (kk) | | (ll) | | (mm) | | (nn) | | (oo) | | (pp) | | (qq) | | (rr) | | (ss) | | (tt) | | (uu) | | (vv) | | (ww) | | (xx) | | (yy) | | (zz) | | (aa) | | (bb) | | (cc) | | (dd) | | (ee) | | (ff) | | (gg) | | (hh) | | (ii) | | (jj) | | (kk) | | (ll) | | (mm) | | (nn) | | (oo) | | (pp) | | (qq) | | (rr) | | (ss) | | (tt) | | (uu) | | (vv) | | (ww) | | (xx) | | (yy) | | (zz) | | (aa) | | (bb) | | (cc) | | (dd) | | (ee) | | (ff) | | (gg) | | (hh) | | (ii) | | (jj) | | (kk) | | (ll) | | (mm) | | (nn) | | (oo) | | (pp) | | (qq) | | (rr) | | (ss) | | (tt) | | (uu) | | (vv) | | (ww) | | (xx) | | (yy) | | (zz) | | (aa) | | (bb) | | (cc) | | (dd) | | (ee) | | (ff) | | (gg) | | (hh) | | (ii) | | (jj) | | (kk) | | (ll) | | (mm) | | (nn) | | (oo) | | (pp) | | (qq) | | (rr) | | (ss) | | (tt) | | (uu) | | (vv) | | (ww) | | (xx) | | (yy) | | (zz) | | (aa) | | (bb) | | (cc) | | (dd) | | (ee) | | (ff) | | (gg) | | (hh) | | (ii) | | (jj) | | (kk) | | (ll) | | (mm) | | (nn) | | (oo) | | (pp) | | (qq) | | (rr) | | (ss) | | (tt) | | (uu) | | (vv) | | (ww) | | (xx) | | (yy) | | (zz) | | (aa) | | (bb) | | (cc) | | (dd) | | (ee) | | (ff) | | (gg) | | (hh) | | (ii) | | (jj) | | (kk) | | (ll) | | (mm) | | (nn) | | (oo) | | (pp) | | (qq) | | (rr) | | (ss) | | (tt) | | (uu) | | (vv) | | (ww) | | (xx) | | (yy) | | (zz) | | (aa) | | (bb) | | (cc) | | (dd) | | (ee) | | (ff) | | (gg) | | (hh) | | (ii) | | (jj) | | (kk) | | (ll) | | (mm) | | (nn) | |
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## Zymotic Disease.

By the Zymotic Death rate we understand the number of deaths per thousand of the population which are due to the seven principal zymotic diseases. The numbers of these were as follows :—

|                | Notified. | Died. | Case mortality per cent. |
|----------------|-----------|-------|--------------------------|
| Small Pox      | ...       | 0     | 0                        |
| Scarlet Fever  | ...       | 221   | 6                        |
| Diphtheria     | ...       | 14    | 4                        |
| Typhoid Fever  | ..        | 25    | 3                        |
| Measles        | ...       | —     | 16                       |
| Whooping Cough | —         | —     | 6                        |
| Diarrhoea      | ...       | —     | 80                       |
|                |           |       | —                        |
|                |           |       | 115                      |

This corresponds to a mortality of 1.8 per thousand of the population. The average Zymotic Death Rate for the previous ten years has been 1.0. Sixty-nine per cent. of the deaths from these causes were due to Diarrhoea, which was exceptionally prevalent during the hot summer months.

## Infantile Diarrhoea.

The deaths from Diarrhoea have numbered 80 ; of these 74 occurred in children under five years of age ; this large number of deaths from this cause is higher than it has been in any previous year of this decade, and constitutes 69 per cent. of the deaths from the seven principal zymotic diseases. Apart from the deaths from this cause, the zymotic death rate instead of being 1.8 would be only .48, so that the importance of this disease cannot be overestimated. Some other larger towns suffered even more extremely than this City during last summer.

The prevalence of this illness is associated with certain climatic conditions, such as a high temperature and a dry season, which are beyond our control ; there are however some other equally well determined factors over which some control may be exercised. The most important of these are—

(1.) The density of population or overcrowding.

(2.) The density of buildings such as is met with in too many of your courts and alleys.

(3.) Restrictions to a free ventilation of air such as are produced by houses being in too close juxta-position in narrow courts and streets, and restrictions to a similar free circulation of air throughout the dwellings themselves ; these restrictions especially exist in those too numerous back-to-back houses which you possess. The last estimate of these houses in this City, including all that had no “through” ventilation, put the figure at 3046.

(4.) Domestic darkness and general dirtiness of dwellings. These conditions are only to a limited extent under the influence of the Sanitary Authority. During the year 302 houses have been reported to your Sanitary Committee as in a filthy and unwholesome condition, and by their order these have been cleansed and lime-washed. This, however, is of little effect without some effort on the part of the poorer inhabitants themselves to pay some attention to cleanliness.

(5.) Sewer or cesspool emanations. Cesspools have, fortunately, almost disappeared from Coventry, the water-closet system being practically universal; imperfections in the drainage arrangements of many of the better-class and generally older dwellings are, however, far from uncommon. When these imperfections have been pointed out, the Health Department has not always met with that amount of cordial co-operation that might have been hoped for from the owners.

There are a large number of untrapped street gulleys in the City, which may effectually ventilate the sewers, but at those points generally where this is undesirable. It is to be hoped that these will gradually be dealt with in the required way.

(6.) Filthy accumulations of domestic refuse in ash pits and dustbins. This cause is especially liable to produce unwholesome emanations in the hot summer months; the effluvia caused by animal and vegetable refuse are greater and create a greater nuisance than at other times, for the simple reason that decomposition takes place more rapidly in hot weather. Many complaints on this head reached the Health Department during the summer, and a cursory survey of some of the ash pits of the City is sufficient to convince one that the question of the initiation of a regular and systematic collection of house refuse is a pressing one.

The smaller number of domestic fires in the summer, together with the increasing use of gas stoves, lessen the amount of vegetable refuse which is dealt with in each house by burning. Added to this, the importance of the destruction by fire of these matters in the kitchen stove does not seem to have been inculcated into the minds of the inhabitants of the poorer houses.

Many of the ash pits still in existence are of the old-fashioned deep variety, and most of the improved and new ones are of a sufficient capacity to require emptying once only in several months.

At the present time there is no sufficiently systematic collection of house refuse; the ash pits often remain full, and even overflowing, until the chance visit of one of the Sanitary Inspectors, who then send a requisition to the Surveyor's Department. A considerable portion of the Inspectors' time is thus occupied in the suppression of nuisances which are brought about, as it were, by the Corporation itself. A weekly visit to each house in the City

from the dust collectors is urgently called for. This appears to have previously been in the contemplation of this Sanitary Authority, for one of your bye-laws in regard to new buildings requires every ashpit to have a capacity not exceeding six cubic feet, or to be of such less capacity as may be sufficient to contain all dust, ashes, rubbish, or dry refuse which may accumulate during a period not exceeding one week upon the premises to which such ashpit may belong.

At the present time when old, deep ashpits become offensive, and can be described as a nuisance injurious to health, I feel that the time is opportune for abolishing them gradually in favour of ash-bins of a smaller and of a portable nature, constructed to contain one week's refuse. These deep ashpits are often a nuisance, whether full or empty, for their old brick walls become crusted with decomposing matter that is never removed. This policy of gradual abolition is now being pursued by your Sanitary Committee. The custom is adopted in some towns of the sanitary authority providing a moveable bin for those houses where the ashpits are of an objectionable nature, while new houses are compelled to provide their own, and this custom does not seem to be without reason.

(7.) A still further common cause of this complaint is the badly arranged artificial feeding of infants. The mortality from this disease is much greater among artificially fed children than in children that are breast-fed. Much may be done in the way of the inculcation of rational notions on the best methods of feeding infants by the medical men of the neighbourhood ; but carelessness and deeply rooted prejudices in this matter are probably difficult to eradicate.

### **Measles.**

Your Corporation abolished the compulsory notification of measles in November, 1896 ; last year was, therefore, the first year since 1891 during which the notification of this disease was not compulsory. The number of deaths which took place from this cause was 16, against an average for the previous five years of 19. The case mortality, or number of deaths per hundred cases, which took place in the years 1891-96 was 2.3. Supposing that the mortality of this disease remained the same in 1897 the number of cases of measles which would have been notified during this year would have been nearly 700 ; that is to say a cost of £87 would have been incurred by the Corporation in payment for these certificates. Since the isolation of this disease is not yet a practical question, it is very reasonably open to doubt whether an expenditure of this sort would be met with commensurate results.

## Scarlet Fever.

As in the three previous years Scarlet Fever has been present during the whole of the twelve months. The total number of cases notified has, however, been less than in those years, as shown by the following figures :—

| Year. | Cases notified. |
|-------|-----------------|
| 1894  | 385             |
| 1895  | 439             |
| 1896  | 313             |
| 1897  | 221             |

Only two weeks during the year occurred when no cases at all were notified. As is usual with this disease a seasonal rise occurred in the early autumn which began to decline in December.

Of the 221 cases notified, 216 were removed to the City Hospital ; two of these were found on admission to be suffering from other diseases. Out of every 100 cases notified, therefore, 97.7 have been isolated in your Hospital. The proportion of cases removed from their homes in this way has been gradually increasing during the last few years.

| Year. | Cases notified. | Cases isolated. | Percentage isolated. |
|-------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| 1894  | 385             | 319             | 82.8                 |
| 1895  | 439             | 408             | 92.9                 |
| 1896  | 313             | 288             | 94.2                 |
| 1897  | 221             | 216             | 97.7                 |

The increase in the number of cases that are in this way isolated is in itself satisfactory, as shewing that the advantages of isolation are becoming appreciated. The instances are so numerous where early isolation and disinfection prevent the spread of the disease to other members of the household, even when some of those others are young children, that it is not easy to understand why there should still be a small proportion who hesitate to take advantage of this means of checking the spread of infection. For even in well-to-do houses there seldom exist conveniences for that adequate isolation of a patient for six or eight weeks which is called for in this disease. It is to be hoped that the enlargement of the City Hospital, and an extension of its internal resources in the way of the maintenance of an adequate nursing staff, and the provision of a full complement of those appurtenances which are necessary to the comfort of the sick and the recreation of the convalescent, may still further lessen the proportion of those cases of Scarlet Fever which escape isolation.

## Small Pox.

No cases of Small Pox have been notified during the year.

## Vaccination.

The following are the returns of the vaccination officer for the nine years that have elapsed since the commencement of the anti-vaccination movement in Coventry.

| Year. | Births. | Deaths un-vaccinated. | Vaccinated. | Unvaccinated. | Percentage Vaccinated. |
|-------|---------|-----------------------|-------------|---------------|------------------------|
| 1889  | 1512    | 187                   | 1273        | 0             | 96.                    |
| 1890  | 1544    | 182                   | 1221        | 111           | 89.                    |
| 1891  | 1727    | 228                   | 587         | 888           | 39.                    |
| 1892  | 1718    | 174                   | 118         | 1400          | 7.6                    |
| 1893  | 1630    | 193                   | 105         | 1304          | 7.2                    |
| 1894  | 1590    | 170                   | 103         | 1317          | 7.7                    |
| 1895  | 1629    | 186                   | 65          | 1378          | 4.5                    |
| 1896  | 1679    | 251                   | 594         | 834           | 41.                    |
| 1897  | 1928    | 220                   | 151         | 1606          | 7.8                    |
|       |         |                       |             | 8838          |                        |

These figures shew that during a period of nine years over 8,000 children have escaped vaccination in your City. They are such as to cause a reasonable consternation at the hopelessly unprotected condition of the inhabitants, should an outbreak of Small Pox occur. Since the Medical Officer of Health has no control whatever over this important factor in the prevention of disease, his duty appears to be limited to that of recording the results that are attained by this extraordinary experiment on the lives of a whole populace. Elsewhere the results have unfortunately been too decisive to allow one to think lightly of the risks to be encountered, or to imagine fearlessly the possible consequences that may ensue. Under the circumstances, the erection of a special Small Pox Hospital by your Corporation appears to have been an act of precautionary wisdom which cannot be too highly extolled.

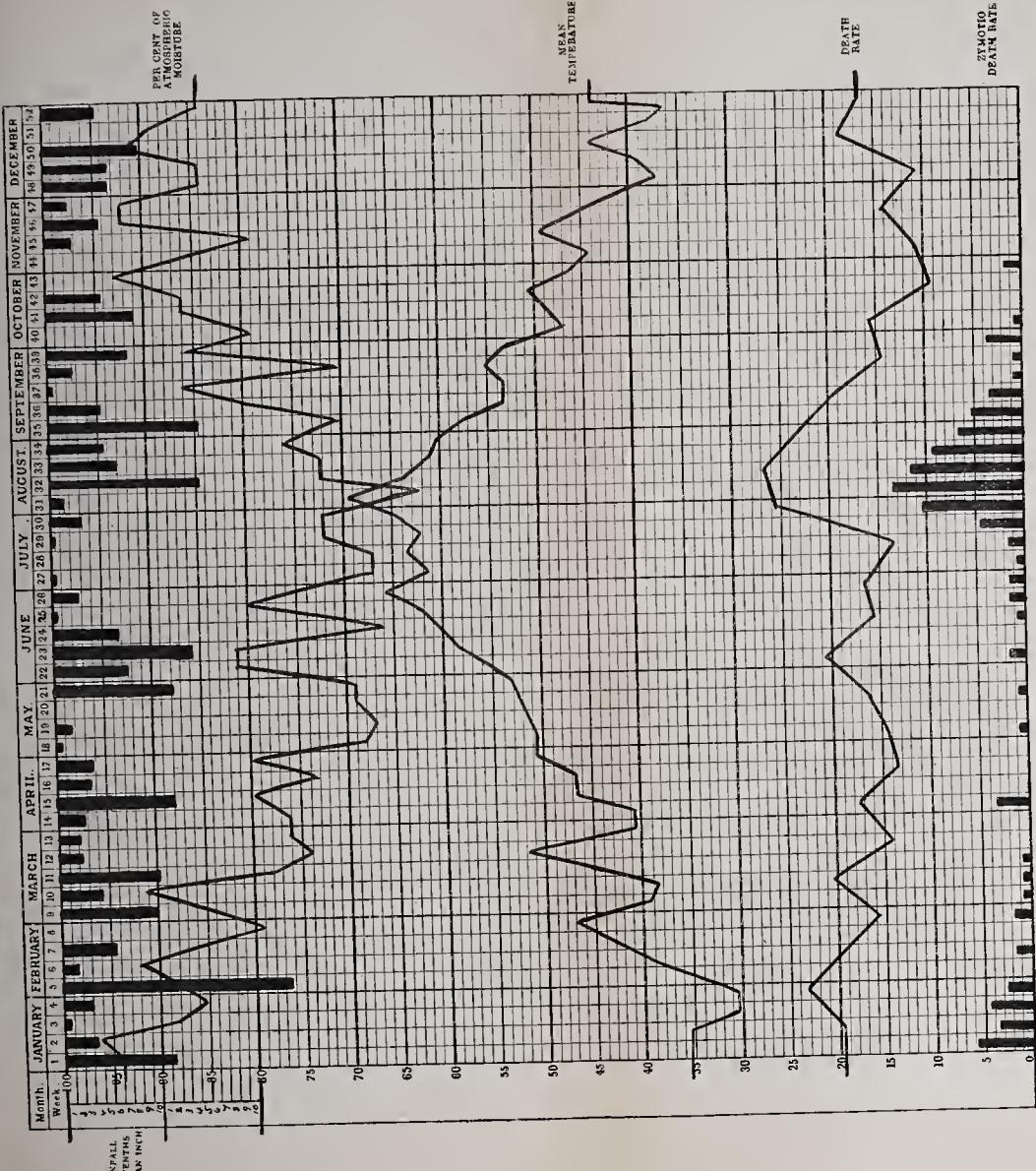
## Enteric Fever.

Of this disease twenty-five cases were notified, and three died. Ten of these cases were isolated in the City Hospital, and owing to lack of sufficient isolation accommodation admission had to be refused to several others.

This City has been remarkably free from this disease. This fact is probably partly owing to the action of the Sanitary Committee in the past in abolishing as far as possible the midden system, and substituting in its place the water carriage system; also in watching alertly the character of private water supplies, such as surface wells, and causing them to be closed when the water appeared to be contaminated. There remain therefore few houses that are not yet supplied with water-closets; and there is a comparatively small number of wells used as supplies for drinking water. In addition, the water supply of your City has hitherto escaped pollution in this respect.

# CITY OF COVENTRY, 1897.

Chart illustrating the relations between the death rates and principal meteorological conditions.





## **Diphtheria.**

Fourteen cases of Diphtheria were notified; of these four cases proved fatal. Your comparative freedom from this disease is a matter on which your City is to be congratulated. In spite of its great prevalence in many other large towns we are still very much in the dark as to its most powerful predisposing causes. It is therefore impossible to say exactly what is the precise combination of circumstances existing in Coventry to which this immunity is due. The disease is so often associated with insanitary conditions of one sort and another that every effort made in the direction of proper sanitation is regarded as tending towards the diminution of the disease.

It is highly important that cases of Diphtheria on their occurrence should be isolated. The advantages of isolation in an Infectious Hospital are great, not only because of the difficulties existing in the way of isolation in private houses, but also because the serum treatment of the disease is much more readily resorted to in a hospital than is usually possible in private practice; that the serum treatment of Diphtheria is efficacious in producing a reduction of the mortality from the disease has now passed beyond the region of doubt. Only one case has, however, been isolated at the City Hospital during the year. This has been partly owing to the lack of accommodation there existing, which has necessitated the refusal of admittance in several instances.

Eleven cases of Membranous Croup were notified, and of these six died.

## **Whooping Cough.**

The number of deaths attributed to this cause was six. This is a smaller number than has been met with in any one year since 1892.

## **Infectious Disease and Libraries.**

It is certain that infectious disease is sometimes spread by the medium of circulating libraries. This has been used as an argument against the establishment of free libraries.

During the year, in order to attempt to abolish as far as possible any risk of contagion from this source, an arrangement has been entered into, with the sanction of your Sanitary Committee, between the Librarian of the Free Library and the Public Health Department, by which the former receives from the latter a weekly list of those houses where cases of infectious disease have been notified; by this means the Health Department can be apprised of the presence of library books in these houses, and the books may then be taken possession of before their return to the Library, and either disinfected or destroyed; and, further, the issue of books to these houses may for the time be interdicted. It is hoped that this precaution may assist in the prevention of the dissemination of infectious disease, and at the same time remove any objection on this score which may exist in connection with the use of the Library.

**Weekly Returns under the Infectious  
Disease (Notification) Act.**

| WEEK ENDING. |            | Small Pox | Scarlet Fever | Diphtheria | Membranous Group | Typhoid Fever | Puerperal Fever | Erysipelas |
|--------------|------------|-----------|---------------|------------|------------------|---------------|-----------------|------------|
| January      | 2 (2 days) | ..        | ..            | ..         | ..               | ..            | ..              | 1          |
| "            | 9          | ..        | ..            | 7          | ..               | 2             | ..              | 2          |
| "            | 16         | ..        | ..            | 3          | ..               | ..            | 1               | ..         |
| "            | 23         | ..        | ..            | 5          | ..               | ..            | ..              | 2          |
| "            | 30         | ..        | ..            | 1          | ..               | ..            | ..              | 2          |
| February     | 6          | ..        | ..            | 2          | ..               | ..            | ..              | ..         |
| "            | 13         | ..        | ..            | 4          | ..               | 1             | ..              | 2          |
| "            | 20         | ..        | ..            | 2          | ..               | ..            | ..              | 5          |
| "            | 27         | ..        | ..            | ..         | 1                | ..            | ..              | 2          |
| March        | 6          | ..        | ..            | ..         | 1                | ..            | ..              | 1          |
| "            | 13         | ..        | ..            | 7          | ..               | 1             | ..              | 2          |
| "            | 20         | ..        | ..            | 1          | ..               | ..            | ..              | ..         |
| "            | 27         | ..        | ..            | 1          | ..               | 2             | ..              | 2          |
| April        | 3          | ..        | ..            | 2          | ..               | ..            | ..              | ..         |
| "            | 10         | ..        | ..            | 3          | ..               | ..            | ..              | ..         |
| "            | 17         | ..        | ..            | 1          | ..               | ..            | ..              | 1          |
| "            | 24         | ..        | ..            | 2          | ..               | ..            | ..              | ..         |
| May          | 1          | ..        | ..            | 5          | ..               | ..            | ..              | 1          |
| "            | 8          | ..        | ..            | 3          | ..               | ..            | ..              | 1          |
| "            | 15         | ..        | ..            | 8          | 1                | ..            | ..              | 3          |
| "            | 22         | ..        | ..            | 6          | 1                | ..            | ..              | ..         |
| "            | 29         | ..        | ..            | 2          | ..               | ..            | ..              | 3          |
| June         | 5          | ..        | ..            | 3          | ..               | ..            | ..              | 2          |
| "            | 12         | ..        | ..            | 1          | ..               | ..            | 2               | 2          |
| "            | 19         | ..        | ..            | 3          | ..               | ..            | ..              | ..         |
| "            | 26         | ..        | ..            | 8          | ..               | ..            | ..              | 1          |
| July         | 3          | ..        | ..            | 1          | ..               | ..            | ..              | 4          |
| "            | 10         | ..        | ..            | 1          | 1                | ..            | ..              | 2          |
| "            | 17         | ..        | ..            | 2          | 1                | ..            | ..              | 2          |
| "            | 24         | ..        | ..            | 3          | ..               | ..            | ..              | ..         |
| "            | 31         | ..        | ..            | 8          | ..               | 1             | ..              | ..         |
| August       | 7          | ..        | ..            | 4          | ..               | ..            | ..              | ..         |
| "            | 14         | ..        | ..            | 3          | ..               | ..            | ..              | 1          |
| "            | 21         | ..        | ..            | 4          | 1                | ..            | ..              | 2          |
| "            | 28         | ..        | ..            | 10         | ..               | ..            | ..              | 2          |
| September    | 4          | ..        | ..            | 3          | 1                | ..            | ..              | 1          |
| "            | 11         | ..        | ..            | 7          | ..               | 1             | 3               | ..         |
| "            | 18         | ..        | ..            | 4          | ..               | ..            | 2               | 1          |
| "            | 25         | ..        | ..            | 8          | ..               | ..            | ..              | 2          |
| October      | 2          | ..        | ..            | 8          | 1                | ..            | ..              | 1          |
| "            | 9          | ..        | ..            | 6          | ..               | ..            | ..              | 1          |
| "            | 16         | ..        | ..            | 12         | ..               | ..            | ..              | 3          |
| "            | 23         | ..        | ..            | 9          | ..               | ..            | ..              | 3          |
| "            | 30         | ..        | ..            | 5          | 1                | ..            | ..              | 2          |
| November     | 6          | ..        | ..            | 9          | ..               | ..            | ..              | 2          |
| "            | 13         | ..        | ..            | 6          | 1                | ..            | ..              | 1          |
| "            | 20         | ..        | ..            | 7          | ..               | ..            | ..              | 1          |
| "            | 27         | ..        | ..            | 5          | ..               | ..            | ..              | ..         |
| December     | 4          | ..        | ..            | 4          | 2                | ..            | ..              | 1          |
| "            | 11         | ..        | ..            | 2          | 1                | ..            | ..              | 2          |
| "            | 18         | ..        | ..            | 3          | 1                | ..            | ..              | 1          |
| "            | 25         | ..        | ..            | 2          | ..               | 1             | ..              | 1          |
| "            | 31         | ..        | ..            | 5          | ..               | ..            | 1               | 1          |
|              | TOTAL      | ..        | 221           | 14         | 11               | 25            | 2               | 72         |

## **Cases of Infectious Disease.**

TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND OF NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1897, in the Coventry Urban Sanitary District ; classified according to DISEASES, AGES, and LOCALITIES.

## The City Hospital.

The following cases were isolated in your Hospital for infectious diseases.

|                                       | Total. | Recovered. | Died. | Death Rate per cent. |
|---------------------------------------|--------|------------|-------|----------------------|
| SCARLET FEVER, in Hospital, Jan. 1897 | 20     |            |       |                      |
| Admitted 1897                         | 214    | 189        | 5     | 2.5                  |
| Nurses infected                       | 2      |            |       |                      |
| TYPHOID FEVER.                        | 13     | 8          | 2     | 20                   |
| DIPHTHERIA.                           | 1      | 1          |       |                      |
| ERYSIPelas.                           | 1      |            |       |                      |
| SMALL POX.                            | 0      |            |       |                      |
| PYAEMIA.                              | 1      |            | 1     |                      |
| TONSILLITIS.                          | 1      |            |       |                      |
| PNEUMONIA.                            | 1      |            |       |                      |
|                                       |        |            |       |                      |
| Totals.                               | 254    | 198        | 8     | 3.8                  |

Remaining in Hospital January, 1898:—

|               |     |    |    |
|---------------|-----|----|----|
| Scarlet Fever | ... | 42 | 48 |
| Typhoid Fever | ... | 3  |    |
| Tonsillitis   | ... | 1  |    |
| Pneumonia     | ... | 1  |    |
| Erysipelas    | ... | 1  |    |

|                |      |     |       |
|----------------|------|-----|-------|
| South Pavilion | open | 344 | days. |
| North          | „    | 182 | „     |
| Iron Hospital  | „    | 308 | „     |
| Factory        | „    | 146 | „     |

Average number of patients per day—33.

Average duration of stay—53 days.

Expenses at the Hospital during the last financial year—  
£1,350 2s. 2d.

Number of Patients isolated annually at the City Hospital since its opening in the year 1874:—

|          |          |          |
|----------|----------|----------|
| 1874—12  | 1882—48  | 1890—83  |
| 1875—14  | 1883—34  | 1891—91  |
| 1876—22  | 1884—34  | 1892—72  |
| 1877—38  | 1885—101 | 1893—65  |
| 1878—54  | 1886—111 | 1894—355 |
| 1879—76  | 1887—158 | 1895—408 |
| 1880—90  | 1888—189 | 1896—313 |
| 1881—156 | 1889—210 | 1897—234 |

## Extensions of the City Hospital.

For one reason and another the extension of the present Hospital has been postponed from time to time. The result has been that the factory, which, in the first instance, was hired to meet a temporary emergency, has for some years been open and used for the reception of patients during a large portion of each

year. During 1897 it was open for twenty-one weeks. Although it might be desirable and justifiable to use this building to meet a temporary emergency, it is certainly not so to use it more or less continuously. This appears to be admitted on all hands, and efforts have been made to extend the permanent portion of the Hospital.

It was represented by the Local Government Board that this extension ought not to precede the erection of a separate Small Pox Hospital outside the City. Plans were, therefore, passed for the carrying out of both of these improvements, and loans were sanctioned to the extent of £10,100. The Small Pox Hospital is now nearing completion. The plans for the extension of the Fever Hospital have, however, been revised. It has been thought that the present extension, in view of the rapidly growing population, could only be regarded as a temporary measure to meet the demand for isolation accommodation, and that in the not-distant future further extensions would be requisite. The present site being a limited one, it was thought desirable that any pavilions that were built should be arranged with a due regard to the economy of the ground; and that this object would be further forwarded by the construction of larger wards than those at first contemplated. Instead, therefore, of erecting two pavilions of two wards each, to accommodate in all 32 beds, it is proposed to erect two pavilions of one ward each, containing together the same number of beds, while each pavilion will be completed by a small, single-bedded or separation ward; in this way accommodation for 34 patients would be provided. It is also proposed to alter the administrative block in such a way that a larger number of bedrooms will be provided, so that each nurse may have a separate bedroom. A further consideration has presented itself to the Hospital Committee, namely, that the Hospital will be now reaching such a size that it will probably be an economy to erect a steam laundry rather than to continue the use of hand labour, which, for the washing that is required in an infectious hospital, causes an expense which is large. The cost that would have been involved by the carrying out of the scheme of last year would have exceeded the amount of loan apportioned to these extensions by about £3,000; it seems certain, therefore, that the present or any other extension of similar dimensions will necessitate an enlarged loan; provision for the furnishing of the extensions should also be included in the estimation of the loan.

### **Small Pox Hospital.**

Since midsummer, 1897, the construction of the new Small Pox Hospital at Pinley Hill has been in progress. This consists of a one-storied pavilion of two wards, which pavilion will hold sixteen beds. There is also an isolation block, with two small wards to hold one bed each, and a block of buildings consisting of a laundry, disinfecting chambers, a mortuary, and an ambulance shed.

By the insertion of two water-closets, a bath, and a larger kitchen range, it is proposed to make the original farm house serve the purposes of an administrative block.

The administrative block of a hospital is the most important portion of the whole, since extended ward accommodation of a temporary character can always be added at a very short notice and with comparatively small expense ; the administrative portion cannot be improvised in this ready way.

Where a Small Pox Hospital is to be built, it is the administrative block which should be in excess of the requirements of the permanent portion of the Hospital. Very limited ward accommodation is sufficient to cope with the few scattered cases that occur from year to year, and also with the commencement of an epidemic. Should the eighteen beds of this hospital be occupied, the following staff will be required to live on the premises. Three day nurses, two night nurses, one cook, one laundress, one wardsmaid, and one matron or charge nurse to superintend the whole ; in addition the hospital will require the permanent services of a caretaker and his wife. It is difficult to understand how these eleven individuals can be suitably accommodated in a building containing four small bedrooms, a store room, two sitting rooms, and a kitchen. The question of the provision of an administration block of adequate capacity must therefore arise on the first occasion when the building is required for use.

The whole Hospital is surrounded by a closed galvanized iron fence. It is hoped that the building will shortly be completed. When that is the case it will be necessary to form a carriage way from the Hospital across the two adjoining fields, a distance of 500 yards, to Folly Lane, and to furnish the building in such a way that it may be ready for use at an hour's notice. The Hospital should also be put into telephonic communication with the City.

### ***Disinfecting Station.***

The following work has been done by the official in charge of this department :—

Visits paid to houses where infectious disease was notified or suspected to exist—1,651.

Patients removed to Hospital—231.

Houses disinfected by fumigation—230.

Steam disinfecting apparatus used—159 times.

Articles disinfected by steam—5,495.

Number of notices sent to schools—169.

An important detail in connection with the work of this department consists in forwarding to the head-teachers of schools notices concerning the outbreak of infectious disease in any house from which those schools receive children. In this way it is hoped that the agency of schools as disseminators of infection may be lessened.

## Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890.

During the year very little progress has been made in the way of the demolition or improvement of the insanitary property which exists too largely in this City.

House No. 4 in court 6, West Orchard, had been previously condemned as unfit for habitation, and was demolished during the year.

No. 10, St. John Street, No. 1, Court 5, West Orchard, and Nos. 1, 2 and 3, in Court 2, Whitefriars' Lane, had been previously condemned, but no progress has been made in the way of rendering them fit for habitation.

No. 10, St. John Street, was recondemned during the year, but no action was taken.

A shed at the back of 49A, Cox Street, was condemned in 1897; proceedings were taken, and it is not now used for habitation.

Under Section 38 of the Act dealing with obstructive houses, the following have been dealt with:—

No. 5, in Court 13, St. John Street, previously condemned, was purchased for demolition in 1896, but is not yet demolished.

One out-building in Court 5, West Orchard, has been purchased for demolition.

Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4, Court 6, West Orchard, were purchased in 1896 and demolished in 1897.

No. 2, in Court 2, St. John Street, was demolished in 1897.

I have already spoken of the considerations which have influenced the Sanitary Committee in the matter of dealing with insanitary property. The question of the provision of labourers' dwellings for the accommodation of those people who would be displaced by the demolition of insanitary property is still under the consideration of a Joint Committee of the General Works and Sanitary Committees. The great problem which is involved, so far as this aspect of the question is concerned, is the construction of dwellings at a sufficiently low rental to meet the requirements of that particular section of the community which is concerned. This is a difficulty which is indeed great.

My predecessor—Dr. Fenton—directed the attention of the Sanitary Committee to the existence of an “unhealthy area,” that bounded by Bishop Street, Leicester Street, Messrs. Astley's Rope-walk, and Swanswell Place. The area involved some 13 acres. On this representation the Sanitary Committee took no action, and the matter remains *in statu quo*. A large amount of insanitary property exists in this area; it is, however, intermingled with a large amount of property which cannot be described as insanitary. Taking this fact into consideration, together with the valuable character of some of the property involved, and the large size of the area, I have hesitated to recommend that the area should be dealt with *en bloc*. It may be found feasible to deal with the area in a piecemeal manner.

A street improvement scheme for the widening of Silver Street, Cook Street, and Leicester Street might be made to accomplish a great deal in this direction.

## Registered Places.

In the report of the Inspector of Nuisances, which is appended, an account will be found of the various places and houses over which your Sanitary Committee has control, with a statement as to the inspections made and proceedings taken in respect to them.

**SLAUGHTER HOUSES.**—In the course of my fortnightly reports to the Sanitary Committee, I have attempted to direct attention to the condition of the Slaughter Houses of this City. What I have said on this point has been practically a reiteration of the facts described and the opinions advanced by my predecessor with praiseworthy pertinacity in his Annual Reports for the past twenty-one years.

There are at the present time 52 Slaughter Houses in Coventry. I have made a careful examination of all of them, and have classified them into groups, according as they could be termed (1) good slaughter houses, (2) insanitary ones, or (3) extremely insanitary ones: and I find that there are 6 good slaughter houses, 29 insanitary ones, and 17 extremely insanitary ones.

The inconveniences and dangers of the existing state of affairs are probably too well known to need recapitulation, but I may perhaps be allowed to mention the most obvious drawbacks.

Most of the slaughter houses were never constructed for the purpose for which they are used. They are in some cases a part of an inhabited house. They are mostly situated in crowded neighbourhoods, and open to the gaze of the surrounding populace. Thirty-four of them have no entrance exclusively for the slaughter house, and the cattle are driven up entries which are rights of way to dwelling houses. When it is known that in 20 out of these 34 the entrance is not more than four feet in width and often less, the inconvenience and danger to the users of these entries are apparent.

In 27 cases the gullies or open drains are inside the buildings themselves. In one case a water-closet is under the same roof and ventilates into the slaughter house. In another I found a horse stabled in the fasting pen, which was inside the slaughter house. One slaughter house is used as a back kitchen, and the slaughtering is done in the yard. In one case I found that slaughtering was carried on in the entry which served as a right of way to several houses. In most of them the conditions are such that the carrying out of the Council's Bye-laws in regard to keeping them in a cleanly and wholesome condition is a sheer impossibility, and it is a waste of time to attempt to insist on this.

The large majority are old and dilapidated; to attempt to convert them into modern sanitary slaughter houses would generally be equivalent to asking to have them re-built. I have in general found the owners very willing to carry into effect any suggested alterations; but, as I have attempted to show, the dealing with them in a merely patchwork manner would only be postponing and perpetuating the evil.

There is yet another aspect in which this question should be viewed, and that is with regard to the character of the meat which the citizens have to consume. I do not wish to suggest for one moment that this will compare unfavourably with that of most

other large towns, or that there are butchers here who would knowingly put on the market meat which they know to be unsound. But the fact remains that some unsound meat does find its way into the shops. This is shown by the circumstance that we do occasionally have cases arising where carcases have to be seized and destroyed. Unsound meat may be and often is the cause of illness. Against this evil the consumer is practically powerless, for often no one but an expert can judge of the presence of disease in meat. In consequence of this no Sanitary Inspector without a special training in this matter can be entrusted with the onus of this responsibility.

You have in your City one qualified inspector, and 52 registered or licensed slaughter houses. To visit each of these 52 slaughter houses it is necessary to travel over 12 miles of roads. These slaughter houses are visited at least once a month and occasionally oftener. If one inspector gave his whole time to inspecting the carcases killed in these slaughter houses, he would have plenty to occupy his time, and even then some would escape his attention. In another portion of this report I am detailing the numerous other duties which the Inspector of Nuisances has to attend to. I think, therefore, that I have made it quite clear that the Inspection of Meat, under existing circumstances, can only be said to exist to a very small extent.

If a public abattoir existed all meat could be subjected to inspection. The keeping, fasting and slaughtering of animals could be done in sanitary buildings properly adapted for this purpose, instead of in wretched structures situated in confined and over-crowded positions. The disposal of blood, manure, and other offal could be more effectually carried out. The dangers attendant on driving timid or infuriated beasts down narrow entries, often forming also the entries to inhabited houses would be done away with; and the slaughtering of animals in view of the public would cease.

An objection to this optimistic view of the matter may be raised on account of the comparatively small number of "old" registered slaughter houses that cannot be compulsorily closed. The experience of other similarly situated towns has been that when the advantages of a Public Slaughter House are appreciated butchers are anxious to make use of it. Consumers are not slow to recognise the vastly improved conditions under which the slaughtering takes place in a public abattoir, and the correspondingly increased protection against unsound meat which this affords. In process of time it is certain that these old slaughter houses would gradually diminish in numbers and ultimately disappear.

The Corporation has power to borrow money for the purpose of erecting a Public Slaughter House, and there is no reason at all why this should not be self-supporting, or even yield a profit.

I am glad to be able to report that this matter is again engaging the attention of the Sanitary Committee.

**DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, AND MILKSHOPS** —There are 98 dairies and milk shops and 43 cowsheds registered within your City. These should receive a larger amount of supervision than it is at present possible to exercise. This especially so in those cases where milk is sold only in small

quantities in those smaller shops which act also as general provision or other stores ; in these it often arises that no proper provision for the storage of milk is met with. The Sanitary Committee has no power to refuse the registration of milkshops, but by an increased amount of supervision, and the enforcement of the provisions of the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Orders of 1885 and 1886, it may be possible to largely induce the smaller vendors, who may be without proper and adequate storage accommodation, either to discontinue the trade or else to provide such accommodation.

**BAKEHOUSES.**—Of these there are 100 in actual use in this City. In the large majority of instances these do not present all that could be desired in the way of cleanliness and wholesome conditions. This fact is probably partly due to the alterations in regard to the inspection and control of these workshops which have taken place in the law during the past twenty years. The tangled intricacies of the Factory and Workshop Acts are such that they do much less to ameliorate unhealthy conditions than was probably intended by their framers. The present condition of affairs is also fostered, so far as this City is concerned, by the paucity of skilled assistance in the way of inspectors which is available for the regular inspection of bakehouses, without neglecting other more urgent duties. It is certainly desirable that the bakehouses should be inspected regularly several times a year. Under the present circumstances this is an impossibility. In many I find that too little attention is paid to general cleanliness. Lime-washing and cleansing is in some done regularly ; in others this is not so. In a number of instances there is no possible contrivance to aid ventilation, except the occasional opening of the door. I have found that there is a very general lack of information among occupiers concerning the fact that there are regulations affecting the management of bakehouses which can be enforced. I have, therefore, recently recommended to the Sanitary Committee that it would be wise to print and circulate the principal regulations affecting bakehouses which are to be found in Acts of Parliament. This the Sanitary Committee has done.

**COMMON LODGING-HOUSES.**—The systematic inspection of the six common lodging-houses, and the enforcement of the Bye-laws relating to them continue to ensure their being kept in a moderately orderly and cleanly condition.

**HOUSES LET IN LODGINGS.**—There are 12 of these now on the register. Whenever a house let in lodgings is not kept in a wholesome condition it has been the policy of the Sanitary Committee to require its registration. This entails its regular inspection and its subjection to the Bye-laws. When this has been done it has been possible to bring about a higher standard of sanitation in these houses.

### **Water Supply.**

The Waterworks Engineer informs me that in the year 1897 518,296,909 gallons of water were supplied to your City from the Spon End and Whitley sources ; that 115 new services were laid on, representing 444 houses, 549 water-closets, and 60 baths.

This amount corresponds to a daily quantity of 1,420,000 gallons, or 23 gallons per day per head of population.

The following is an analysis of Coventry tap water submitted recently to Dr. Bostock Hill, the City Analyst:—

Water clear and bright with many particles.

|                                   |     |     |      |                   |
|-----------------------------------|-----|-----|------|-------------------|
| Total solid impurity              | ... | ... | 44.0 | parts per 100,000 |
| Free ammonia                      | ... | ... | .001 | "                 |
| Organic ammonia                   | ... | ... | .002 | "                 |
| Nitrogen as nitrates and nitrites | ... | ... | .33  | "                 |
| Total combined nitrogen           | ... | ... | .331 | "                 |
| Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours        | ... | ... | 0    | "                 |
| Chlorine                          | ... | ... | 2.4  | "                 |
| Hardness: Temporary               | ... | ... | 5.9  | "                 |
| " Permanent                       | ... | ... | 18.0 | "                 |
| " Total                           | ... | ... | 23.9 | "                 |

In the bacteriological examination the gelatine plate culture hardly showed a colony at the end of 48 hours.

The recent outbreaks of typhoid fever in different parts of the country have caused many towns to direct their attention to the question of the purity of their water supplies. The importance of this subject is such that the utmost vigilance is required to be continually directed to the matter of water supply; for the immunity of a town from water-borne typhoid for a long period in the past is in itself no safeguard against a serious outbreak in the future. On this account I have made it one of my earliest duties to gain every information possible concerning the character and the sources of the Coventry water supply.

Almost the whole of the City water is derived from the deep wells situated at Spon End and at Whitley. The chemical analyses of water from these sources have hitherto shown it to be of exceptional purity, so far as contamination with organic matter is concerned; the only drawback has been that the water is very hard.

So far as the possibility of pollution is concerned, it would probably have been preferable for the Whitley source to have been situated on the opposite and higher side of the City.

Concerning a small source of supply, known as the Barley Brook, at Spon End, the above remarks do not apply. This is water from mixed sources, consisting partly of spring and partly of surface water, and its appearance and chemical composition vary from time to time. I have on two recent occasions reported to the Sanitary Committee on the questionable character of this supply, and have recommended that this supply should either be cut off altogether, or else that the spring water only should be utilized. Subsequently to the presentation of these reports, your Waterworks Committee have ceased the use of the Barley Brook water until a thorough examination of the source of this water has been made.

In connection with the water supply of Coventry, considerable trouble has from time to time arisen from the growth of a weed. The objections to this weed may be originally of a sentimental nature, but if the weed exists in considerable quantity it detracts very much from the purity of the water for drinking purposes. The whole of this cause of annoyance appears to arise from the tank at Spon End, since it is not met with either at the Coundon

reservoirs or at Whitley. If the tank at Spon End was covered, and thus protected from sunlight, the growth of this weed would be checked, and the trouble would, I believe, disappear.

Concerning the periodical examination of the quality of the water, I am given to understand that samples have, from time to time, been submitted to the City Analyst. This examination has, however, been made at irregular and often somewhat protracted intervals. It has also been the custom for your Medical Officer of Health to make occasional analyses, in order to satisfy himself concerning the potability of the water. Chemical analysis often supplies us with very important information concerning any changes taking place in the character of water, and should be made regularly. In my reports to the Sanitary Committee, I have attempted to show, however, that this must not be relied on exclusively, and that there are other ways of gaining information on this head. The first and most important of these is a systematic examination of the source of the water; this means is exceptionally called for in the case of the Barley Brook water before mentioned, since in this case some doubt appears to exist concerning the origin of the supply, and the course and condition of the supply pipes; and, secondly, it is often possible to obtain valuable information from a bacteriological examination; with this object I have been instructed by the Sanitary Committee to obtain the bacteriological apparatus which will be necessary to carry out periodical examinations of this sort. I hope very speedily to obtain the use of a larger room for a laboratory, which will be fitted up with the essentials for these requirements.

### **Factory and Workshop Acts.**

The administration of these Acts so far as they relate to workshops, now devolves upon the Local Sanitary Authority.

Under the term "workshop" is included all workplaces where steam or other mechanical power is not employed, and where members of more than one family are engaged, however limited and small the place may be. Every workshop is to be inspected and measured in order to fix the limit of persons that may be employed there, to prevent overcrowding, to ensure cleanliness, ventilation and warming, water supply and w.c. accommodation, to prevent nuisances arising in process of manufacture, and to examine the lists of outworkers and to visit their homes. There are probably 1,000 places in your district to which the Act would apply; it will therefore be seen what a serious amount of work is thus imposed on the Sanitary department. An effort has been made to deal with the subject, but it is impossible that these inspections can be carried out efficiently without augmenting the staff of Inspectors.

### **Sewage Nuisances.**

Sewage is still discharged into the City from the Foleshill district at four points on the Northern side. The most offensive of these has latterly been the ditch which enters the City from Stoke, near Jeffrey Wood's Cross. The attention of the Foleshill

Rural Sanitary Authority has been once again directed to this nuisance, and temporizing methods have been attempted. No effective remedy will be found until the Foleshill district is properly drained and a sewage scheme adopted. It does not appear possible that any such scheme which might be adopted by the Foleshill Authority could deal with those outlying portions of their area, which abut on Coventry, on account of the contour of the ground. It seems certain, therefore, that these nuisances and dangers will continue until some arrangement is made by which these districts are included in the Coventry system of sewerage.

During the year a larger number of cases of Typhoid Fever have been met with in a small belt of this part of the Foleshill district adjoining the City boundary than have occurred in the whole of Coventry. This condition of affairs forms a perpetual menace to the health of the City. The earlier, therefore, that this question is dealt with in the only possible way the better, not only for the inhabitants of that portion of Foleshill, but also for this City.

### **Refuse Removal.**

During the year 24,157 loads of ashpit and dust-bin refuse have been removed. This amount, increasing year by year, is tipped on to Stoke Common. The question of an improvement in this method of disposal of house refuse has again and again been under your notice. The urgency of the matter was frequently reiterated in his Reports by the late Dr. Fenton.

It does not appear to be a matter requiring demonstration that the present method of dealing with the house and street refuse, consisting as it does largely of decomposing vegetable matter, and to a small extent of animal matter, by piling it up in vast accumulations in the near vicinity of the City, is not a sanitary way of dealing with the problem, and it is even questionable whether it is the most economical.

Apart altogether from the unwholesome and insanitary nature of these huge deposits, they form a considerable temptation to the smaller rag and bone collectors to gather together and return to the City foul-smelling bones, rags and other rubbish which have been so labouriously carried away from the immediate neighbourhood of houses. In spite of precautions taken there appears little doubt that this obnoxious branch of this trade is not entirely suppressed.

It is, therefore, my duty to urge that the earliest opportunity be taken to meet this question in the way in which it will have to be met sooner or later, and which has proved so successful in other places—namely, by the erection of a dust-estructor.

### **Diseases of Animals.**

**SWINE FEVER.**—Although this disease was prevalent in the surrounding districts, only two outbreaks occurred in the City during the year. The whole of the infected animals and others that had been in contact with them, 51 in number, were slaughtered, and the premises cleansed and disinfected under the directions of the Board of Agriculture. So far as could be ascertained, the steps taken were effective in preventing the further spread of this disease.

The Markets and Fairs Order came into force on July 1st, 1897. This order provides that every pig exposed at a market, fair, or sale, shall be slaughtered within four days, exclusive of the day on which the market, fair or sale is held. Consequently your Inspector of Nuisances has been called upon to follow up 294 licenses, so as to insure that 1866 pigs from various sales have been moved and slaughtered in accordance with the order. This, like all previous orders of the Board of Agriculture, has entailed a great amount of labour in carrying out its provisions, so that in computing the amount of Sanitary work done, these ever-increasing special duties must not be lost sight of.

### **Offensive Trades.**

As an Urban Sanitary Authority your Corporation has considerable powers in preventing the establishment, and in regulating the carrying on of any offensive trade within the district. This City is, however, fortunate in having few such establishments within its boundary, where the trade carried on can be described technically as offensive. Only one case occurred during the year in which the Sanitary Committee found it necessary to take action, and their action has, at any rate for the time, resulted in a mitigation of the nuisance complained of.

### **Drainage of New Buildings.**

In regard to this matter the custom that at present pertains is curious, in that the Health Department is responsible for the drainage of every inhabited house being in a satisfactory condition; and yet, while this is the case, a new house is erected, and all the drainage, house fittings and sanitary arrangements generally are completed without the Health Department having an opportunity of testing or examining in any way, and without their having the chance of seeing that their requirements are being carried out. Thus, although the Health Department has had nothing to do with this new house, yet, directly it is occupied, the whole responsibility for the sanitary state of the house is at once transferred to the Health Department.

The result has, from time to time, been, both in this and in many other towns, that one department may have to find fault with the work of another. The best preventative against such occurrences would apparently be the formation of a closer association between the two departments having to do with drainage, so that the Health Office should have information concerning the disposition, etc., of the drains of all new buildings, and should have an opportunity of examining, and if necessary of testing, their efficiency before a certificate is given that the house is fit for occupation. Hitherto this has been partially attempted here by giving to the Medical Officer of Health an opportunity of commenting on the plans and drainage of new buildings before they were submitted to the General Works Committee. On the re-arrangement of the Surveyor's Department in 1897 even that slight connection ceased.

## **Building Bye-Laws.**

Since my appointment I have on two occasions brought before the notice of the Sanitary Committee the wholesale manner in which the Bye-Laws relating to new buildings have been and are being disregarded. This is mostly in connection with the erection of sheds, stables and other small structures in the rear of dwellings; it is only officers of the Health Department, whose attention is being continually directed to this matter, since they form the only department the members of which are continually visiting the rear of old premises.

These Bye-Laws furnish the Corporation with a great power in the way of controlling the structure of buildings with due regard to safety against fire, sanitary arrangements, proper ventilation, a due proportion of open unoccupied space and a number of other desiderata.

If sheds put up in this manner are allowed to remain up a certain length of time before any action is taken in the matter, the only way in which they can be abolished is by their being condemned as obstructive and their demolition accomplished after compensation has been made to the owner. This plan has been recently carried out in the case of one shed of an objectionable nature, and the sum of £20 has been paid to the owner by way of compensation. Apart from the anomaly of compensating an owner for the destruction of that for which, if detected in time, no compensation would have been called for, and for the erection of which the owner incurred liabilities, it is impossible to advise the systematic continuance of this process, unless at the same time some effective means are taken for preventing the further infraction of the Bye-Laws in the same direction. I have reported several of the grosser instances that have been brought to my notice; some of them at the time of my report were of recent construction; but for one reason and another no action was taken in any single case.

If, then, bye-laws in regard to this matter are allowed to become a dead letter, all effective open space may disappear, and every back garden may become a farm yard. That this is what is actually taking place may be demonstrated by a visit to certain portions of the more thickly populated parts of your City.

If any alteration in this respect is to be accomplished, it would appear that the services of the members of this Department must be requisitioned, since their visits to back premises are of a more or less regular and systematic nature; and, further, they must be provided with knowledge not only concerning the addresses of those houses in connection with which the erection of sheds has been authorised, but they must have information concerning the extent and character of those proposed erections.

## **The Inspection of the District and the Sanitary Staff.**

This Report would not be complete without some reference to the work which is, or ought to be, accomplished in the Public Health Department, and the relation which this work bears to the Sanitary Staff. The Public Health Department at present contains

one qualified Inspector of Nuisances, one Assistant Inspector and one Clerk. There is in addition one Disinfector; the time of the latter is now wholly occupied by the ambulance work and disinfection of bedding, etc., at the Hospital, together with a number of minor duties at that institution which cannot be undertaken by the female staff.

The work of the Inspector of Nuisances is of an ever increasing quantity, and includes the inspection of the district, with its twelve thousand four hundred houses scattered over some 40 miles of roads; the regular inspection of 52 slaughterhouses, 98 dairies and milkshops, 43 cowsheds, 100 bakehouses, 6 common lodging houses and 12 houses let in lodgings; personal attention to all nuisances complained of by inhabitants; the inspection of workshops in regard to certain matters; the work entailed by the Food and Drugs Act, and, by the orders of the Board of Agriculture, in connection with the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act; the inspection and registration of Canal Boats; and various other minor duties.

A large proportion of this work is of a technical nature and can only be undertaken by a certificated inspector, or one who has received a special training; it cannot therefore be delegated to the Assistant Inspector. The Assistant Inspector's time is consequently occupied by an inspection of that half of the city which is allotted to him with a view to the discovery of the grosser forms of nuisances.

With the mass of work which has to be dealt with it inevitably happens that a considerable portion either remains undone or is done only in a perfunctory fashion. Systematic house-to-house inspection of every house in the City, including the better class houses (in which often some of the worst defects are to be found) in the proper sense of the term can scarcely be said to exist. Such an inspection should include the keeping of accessible records of the sanitary details of every house. This is an ideal towards which every Public Health Department should attempt to attain, and involves not only an efficient staff of inspectors, but an increased amount of office work. Under existing circumstances the attainment of this end is an impossibility.

I am, Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

**E. HUGH SNELL,**

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

March, 1898.

ANNUAL RETURN  
OF THE  
INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES  
FOR THE YEAR 1897.

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*To Dr. Snell, Medical Officer of Health.*

Sir,—

I herewith present the Annual Statement, shewing particulars of the action taken in the suppression of Nuisances and various improvements effected by this department during the year 1897.

|                                                     | No. of Cases dealt with. | Structural improvements. | Total for 6 years. |
|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| No. of drains opened and cleansed from obstructions | 94                       |                          |                    |
| ,, drains provided with efficient traps             | ... 328                  | 1410                     |                    |
| ,, new drains provided ...                          | ... 47                   | 245                      |                    |
| ,, sink drains disconnected                         | ... 27                   | 149                      |                    |
| ,, houses cleansed and limewashed                   | ... 302                  |                          |                    |
| ,, houses supplied with town water                  | ... 5                    |                          |                    |
| ,, offensive privies converted into water closets   | 10                       | 231                      |                    |
| ,, additional new water closets provided            | ... 19                   |                          |                    |
| ,, foul closets cleansed ...                        | ... 329                  |                          |                    |
| ,, defective water closets repaired ...             | ... 108                  |                          |                    |
| ,, offensive ashpits filled up and floors paved     | 77                       | 469                      |                    |
| ,, urinals cleansed, repaired, and reconstructed    | 39                       | 200                      |                    |
| ,, courts and backyards paved and repaired...       | 81                       | 448                      |                    |
| ,, nuisances from fowls, etc., abated               | ... 9                    |                          |                    |
| ,, nuisances from swine and swine sties abated      | 6                        |                          |                    |
| ,, accumulations of manure, etc., removed ...       | 35                       |                          |                    |
| ,, smoke nuisances abated                           | ... 30                   |                          |                    |
|                                                     |                          | 1546                     | 3152               |

**Bakehouses.**—The total number on the register is now 100. These premises have been periodically inspected and with few exceptions were found in fair order, considering that many of them are not of modern construction.

### Slaughterhouses.—

|                                         |     |    |
|-----------------------------------------|-----|----|
| Total No. of Registered Slaughterhouses | ... | 47 |
| ,,    Licensed                          | ... | 5  |
| ,,    Applications for Licences         | ... | 1  |
| ,,    ,,    refused                     | ... | 1  |
| ,,    Slaughterhouses discontinued      | ..  | 5  |
| ,,    ,,    now in use                  | ... | 52 |
| ,,    Inspections made during the year  | 664 |    |

The accommodation for slaughtering has not increased with the growth of the City, consequently many small slaughterhouses are now used in common by several butchers, thus increasing the nuisance which invariably arises from these premises. As pointed out in previous reports, the greater number of these premises are old, dilapidated, and structurally unfit for the purpose for which they are used.

Magisterial proceedings were taken in four cases for breaches of the Bye-Laws. The offenders were convicted and ordered to pay fines amounting to £7 19s. In one case proceedings were prevented owing to the occupier of a Slaughterhouse absconding after a most flagrant disregard of the Slaughterhouse Bye-Laws.

**Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.**—There are now 98 dairies and milkshops and 43 cowsheds registered in the district. During the year 207 visits were made to the dairies and milkshops, and 129 to the cowsheds.

Constant supervision is required to be exercised over the milkshops to enforce the regulations and to prevent the improper storage of milk, owing especially to the objectionable practice of the small provision shops, which sell and store lamp-oil, fish, vinegar, vegetables, etc., in close proximity to the milk.

**Food and Drugs.**—In accordance with the provisions of the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, 1875-1879, 74 samples were purchased and submitted to the Public Analyst.

Of these 65 were certified as genuine, 2 poor in quality, and seven adulterated.

Six samples of butter contained boracic acid as a preservative, but no proceedings were taken against the vendors of this butter.

Five vendors of adulterated milk were prosecuted and convictions obtained, the fines and costs amounting to £10 8s. 6d.

The nature of the samples is shewn in the following table:—

| SAMPLES. | ARTICLE. | GENUINE. | ADULTERATED. |
|----------|----------|----------|--------------|
| 25       | Butter   | 24       | 1            |
| 41       | Milk     | 35       | 6            |
| 1        | Lard     | 1        |              |
| 4        | Drugs    | 4        |              |
| 1        | Sweets   | 1        |              |
| 1        | Mustard  | 1        |              |
| 1        | Pepper   | 1        |              |
| 74       |          | 67       | 7            |

**Common Lodging Houses.**—There are now 6 registered Common Lodging Houses under supervision, containing a total of 35 rooms with a maximum accommodation for 194 persons nightly.

In addition to the above, there are 12 houses containing 72 rooms let separately as dwellings now on the register of Houses Let in Lodgings.

No case of Infectious Disease or serious contravention of the Bye-Laws has been reported from these houses during the year.

### **Contagious Diseases (Animals) Acts, 1878—1894, and Orders of Board of Agriculture.**

**Swine Fever.**—During the year two outbreaks of Swine Fever occurred in the district. Fifty-one animals were slaughtered in accordance with the Orders of the Board of Agriculture. The Markets and Fairs Order came into force on July 1st, 1897. This order has entailed the following up of 294 licences, so as to ensure that 1866 pigs from various sales were moved and slaughtered in accordance with the order.

Legal proceedings were found necessary in two instances, and the offenders were ordered to pay £3 15s. 6d. in fines and costs.

**Inspection and Registration of Canal Boats.**—In compliance with the Acts and Regulations 158 Canal Boats have been inspected during the year. The cabins were registered to accommodate 471 persons and were found to be occupied by 416 persons, viz.—196 males, 87 females and 133 children. Sixteen infringements of the Acts and Regulations were discovered. Of these, 2 were in reference to want of registration, 8 to absence of certificates, 2 to the proper marking of the names and numbers of the boats, 1 to the provision of a proper water vessel, 1 to overcrowding, 1 to the separation of sexes, and 1 to cleanliness and ventilation.

Complaint notes and a number of letters were sent to the various defaulters and 14 of the contraventions were remedied before the end of the year. It was found necessary to take legal proceedings in two cases. The first was withdrawn on payment of 8s. 6d. costs, the owner in the meantime having taken measures for preventing a recurrence of this contravention. In the second case the master of a canal boat was fined 10/- and 4/- costs for a similar offence.

No case of infectious disease has been reported or dealt with from any of the Canal Boats plying within this district, while in no instance has the Inspector been obstructed in the execution of his duty. At the end of the year there were 217 boats on the official register, 5 having been registered during the year.

**Inspection of Food.**—Such inspections of meat as were possible were made. There have been two seizures of unsound meat, one of which was followed by a prosecution. Thorough inspection is impossible as long as the numerous and widely-scattered slaughter houses are in use.

**Registered Places.—**

|                                                     |          |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Total number of registered places under supervision | 311      |
| Total number of visits paid                         | ... 1299 |

**Summary.—**

|                                                                                      |           |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Number of premises visited                                                           | ... 12936 |
| Number of notices for abatement of nuisances                                         | ... 1116  |
| Number of summonses issued for non-compliance with notices served to abate nuisances | ... 8     |

Although a reasonable time is given for carrying into effect the requirements of the notices served, in some instances the work is not done, whatever length of time is given. This non-compliance has made it necessary to take magisterial proceedings in 8 cases for the abatement of nuisances during the year. The delinquents, when summoned, invariably expressed their willingness to carry out the necessary work and pay the costs of the proceedings.

I remain, sir,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. CLARKE.

*Cert. San. Inst.*

# Magisterial Proceedings.

| No. of Cases. | Complaint.                                    | Result.                | Total Cost. |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------|
| 1             | Selling adulterated milk                      | ... Fined 10 0 & costs | 1 2 0       |
| 2             | " " "                                         | " 5 0 "                | 1 6 0       |
| 3             | " " "                                         | " 1 0 0 "              | 2 3 0       |
| 4             | " " "                                         | " 2 0 0 "              | 3 2 0       |
| 5             | " " "                                         | " 1 2 6 "              | 2 15 6      |
| 6             | In possession of unsound meat                 | " 10 0 "               | 1 4 6       |
| 7             | Breach of slaughter house Bye-laws            | " 2 0 0 "              | 2 11 6      |
| 8             | " " "                                         | " 2 0 0 "              | 2 11 6      |
| 9             | " " "                                         | " 10 0 "               | 1 4 6       |
| 10            | " " "                                         | " 1 0 0 "              | 1 11 6      |
| 11            | Breach of Swine Fever Order                   | " 1 0 0 "              | 1 11 6      |
| 12            | Breach of Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act   | " 1 0 0 "              | 2 4 0       |
| 13            | Breach of Canal Boats Acts                    | " 10 0 "               | 0 8 6       |
| 14            | " " "                                         | " 10 0 "               | 1 4 0       |
| 15            | Nuisance, breach of Bye-laws                  | " 10 0 "               | 1 1 6       |
| 16            | " " "                                         | " 10 0 "               | 1 1 6       |
| 17            | Nuisance, non-compliance with notice          | ... ...                | 0 10 0      |
| 18            | " " "                                         | "                      | 0 9 0       |
| 19            | " " "                                         | "                      | 0 9 0       |
| 20            | " " "                                         | "                      | 0 9 0       |
| 21            | " " "                                         | "                      | 0 6 0       |
| 22            | " " "                                         | "                      | 0 11 0      |
| 23            | " " "                                         | "                      | 0 6 0       |
| 24            | " " "                                         | "                      | 0 6 0       |
| 25            | Offensive trade nuisance, rag and bone stores | ... ..                 | 0 9 0       |
| 26            | " " "                                         | " 3 0 0 "              | 3 12 6      |
| 27            | Closing order                                 | ... ...                | 0 9 0       |
| 28            | Non-compliance with Magistrates' Order        | ... ...                | 1 2 6       |
| 29            | " " "                                         | " 10 0 "               | 2 15 0      |
|               |                                               |                        | £ 38 17 0   |

## Sale of Food and Drugs Act, 1875.

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*Copy of the Reports of the Public Analyst for the City of Coventry upon the Articles analysed by him under the above Act for the year ending 31st December, 1897.*

QUARTER ENDING MARCH 31st, 1897.

| Article submitted for Analysis. | State whether the Sample was submitted to the Analyst by an Officer acting under direction of a Local Authority under Section 13 of Act, and if so the name of such Authority. | Result of Analysis showing whether the Sample was Genuine or Adulterated, and if Adulterated what were the nature and extent of the Adulterations. | Observations.                 |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Sweets .. .                     | W. H. Clarke,<br>Sanitary Inspector<br>to the City.                                                                                                                            | Genuine                                                                                                                                            |                               |
| Butter .. .                     |                                                                                                                                                                                | ,,                                                                                                                                                 | Conta'n'd Boracic Acid        |
| Butter .. .                     |                                                                                                                                                                                | ,,                                                                                                                                                 | Do.                           |
| Mustard .. .                    |                                                                                                                                                                                | ,,                                                                                                                                                 |                               |
| Butter .. .                     |                                                                                                                                                                                | ,,                                                                                                                                                 | Do.                           |
| Butter .. .                     |                                                                                                                                                                                | ,,                                                                                                                                                 | Do.                           |
| Pepper .. .                     |                                                                                                                                                                                | ,,                                                                                                                                                 |                               |
| Butter .. .                     |                                                                                                                                                                                | ,,                                                                                                                                                 | Do.                           |
| Butter .. .                     |                                                                                                                                                                                | ,,                                                                                                                                                 |                               |
| Butter .. .                     |                                                                                                                                                                                | ,,                                                                                                                                                 | Do.                           |
| Milk .. .                       |                                                                                                                                                                                | ,,                                                                                                                                                 |                               |
| Milk .. .                       |                                                                                                                                                                                | ,,                                                                                                                                                 |                               |
| Milk .. .                       |                                                                                                                                                                                | ,,                                                                                                                                                 |                               |
| Milk .. .                       |                                                                                                                                                                                | ,,                                                                                                                                                 |                               |
| Milk .. .                       |                                                                                                                                                                                | Adulterated, deficient of 30% of its fat.<br>Genuine                                                                                               | Fined 5/- and £1 1s.<br>costs |
| Milk .. .                       |                                                                                                                                                                                | ,,                                                                                                                                                 |                               |
| Milk .. .                       |                                                                                                                                                                                | ,,                                                                                                                                                 | Poor                          |
| Milk .. .                       |                                                                                                                                                                                | Adulterated, being deficient of 15% of its fat.<br>Genuine                                                                                         | Fined 10/. and 12/-<br>costs  |
| Milk .. .                       |                                                                                                                                                                                | ,,                                                                                                                                                 | Poor                          |
| Milk .. .                       |                                                                                                                                                                                | ,,                                                                                                                                                 |                               |
| Milk .. .                       |                                                                                                                                                                                | Adulterated, being deficient of 20% of its fat                                                                                                     | Fined £1 and £1 3s.<br>costs  |

QUARTER ENDING JUNE 30th, 1897.

|             |                                     |                                                        |                              |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Milk .. .   | W. H. Clarke,<br>Sanitary Inspector | Genuine                                                |                              |
| Milk .. .   |                                     | ,,                                                     |                              |
| Butter .. . |                                     | ,,                                                     |                              |
| Butter .. . |                                     | ,,                                                     |                              |
| Butter .. . |                                     | ,,                                                     |                              |
| Butter .. . |                                     | ,,                                                     |                              |
| Butter .. . |                                     | ,,                                                     |                              |
| Butter .. . |                                     | ,,                                                     |                              |
| Milk .. .   |                                     | ,,                                                     |                              |
| Milk .. .   |                                     | ,,                                                     |                              |
| Milk .. .   |                                     | Adulterated, being deficient of 30% of its natural fat | Fined £2 and £1 2s.<br>costs |

**Sale of Food & Drugs Act, 1875.**—Continued.

QUARTER ENDING SEPTEMBER 30th, 1897.

| Article submitted for Analysis. | State whether the Sample was submitted to the Analyst by an Officer acting under direction of a Local Authority under Section 13 of Act, and if so the name of such Authority. | Result of Analysis showing whether the Sample was Genuine or Adulterated, and if Adulterated what were the nature and extent of the Adulterations. | Observations.                      |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Milk .. ..                      | W. H. Clarke,<br>Sanitary Inspector                                                                                                                                            | Genuine                                                                                                                                            |                                    |
| Milk .. ..                      |                                                                                                                                                                                | Adulterated, 6% of added water                                                                                                                     | Cautioned                          |
| Milk .. ..                      | „                                                                                                                                                                              | Genuine                                                                                                                                            |                                    |
| Milk .. ..                      | „                                                                                                                                                                              | „                                                                                                                                                  |                                    |
| Milk .. ..                      | „                                                                                                                                                                              | „                                                                                                                                                  |                                    |
| Milk .. ..                      | „                                                                                                                                                                              | „                                                                                                                                                  |                                    |
| Milk .. ..                      | „                                                                                                                                                                              | „                                                                                                                                                  |                                    |
| Milk .. ..                      | „                                                                                                                                                                              | „                                                                                                                                                  |                                    |
| Milk .. ..                      | „                                                                                                                                                                              | „                                                                                                                                                  |                                    |
| Milk .. ..                      | „                                                                                                                                                                              | „                                                                                                                                                  |                                    |
| Milk .. ..                      | „                                                                                                                                                                              | Adulterated, 4% added water, and deficient of 15% of its fat.                                                                                      | Fined £1 2s. 6d. and £1 13s. costs |
| Milk .. ..                      | „                                                                                                                                                                              | Genuine                                                                                                                                            |                                    |
| Milk .. ..                      | „                                                                                                                                                                              | „                                                                                                                                                  |                                    |
| Milk .. ..                      | „                                                                                                                                                                              | „                                                                                                                                                  |                                    |
| Milk .. ..                      | „                                                                                                                                                                              | „                                                                                                                                                  |                                    |
| Milk .. ..                      | „                                                                                                                                                                              | „                                                                                                                                                  |                                    |
| Milk .. ..                      | „                                                                                                                                                                              | „                                                                                                                                                  |                                    |
| Milk .. ..                      | „                                                                                                                                                                              | „                                                                                                                                                  |                                    |

QUARTER ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1897.

|                  |                                     |                                               |           |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Butter .. ..     | W. H. Clarke,<br>Sanitary Inspector | Genuine                                       |           |
| Butter .. ..     |                                     | „                                             |           |
| Butter .. ..     | „                                   | „                                             |           |
| Butter .. ..     | „                                   | „                                             |           |
| Butter .. ..     | „                                   | „                                             |           |
| Butter .. ..     | „                                   | „                                             |           |
| Butter .. ..     | „                                   | „                                             |           |
| Butter .. ..     | „                                   | „                                             |           |
| Butter .. ..     | „                                   | „                                             |           |
| Butter .. ..     | „                                   | Adulterated with 15% of Fat foreign to Butter | Cautioned |
| Lard .. ..       |                                     | Genuine                                       |           |
| Butter .. ..     | „                                   | „                                             |           |
| Butter .. ..     | „                                   | „                                             |           |
| Milk .. ..       | „                                   | „                                             |           |
| Milk .. ..       | „                                   | „                                             |           |
| Milk .. ..       | „                                   | „                                             |           |
| Milk .. ..       | „                                   | „                                             |           |
| Milk .. ..       | „                                   | „                                             |           |
| Olive Oil ..     | „                                   | „                                             |           |
| Syrup of Rhubarb | „                                   | „                                             |           |
| Tinct of Senna.. | „                                   | „                                             |           |
| „ Iodine ..      | „                                   | „                                             |           |

# Meteorological Observations made at the City Hospital, Coventry, 1897.

Lat.  $52^{\circ} 24' 34''$ . Long.  $1^{\circ} 30' 20''$

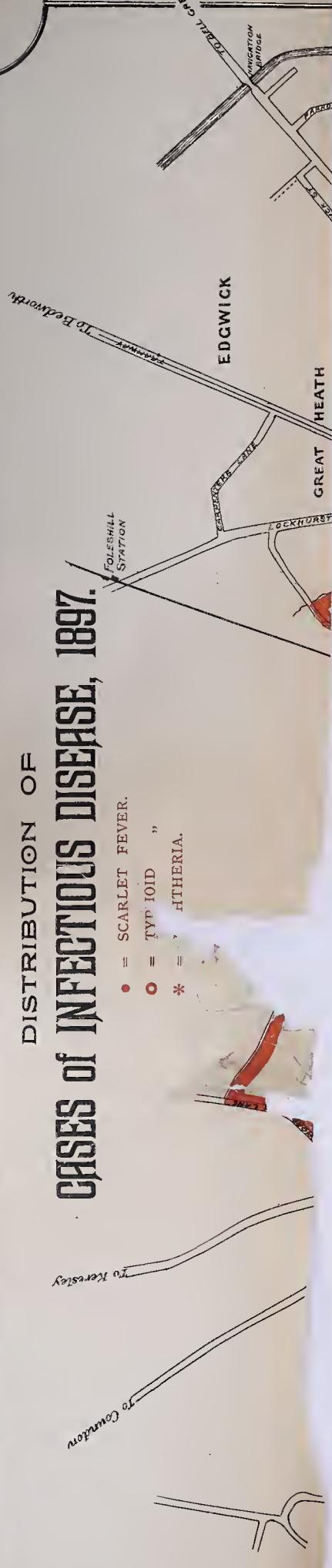
*Height above mean Sea Level 266ft.*

| Month.        | AIR TEMPERATURE.                                        |        |                         |                           |                           |                           | RAINFALL.                                |                                 |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------|--------|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
|               | Barometer,<br>9 a.m.<br>300 feet<br>above<br>sea level. | 9 a.m. | Maxi-<br>mum in<br>Sun. | Maxi-<br>mum in<br>Shade, | Mini-<br>mum in<br>Shade. | Mini-<br>mum on<br>Grass, | Total<br>Hours of<br>Bright<br>Sunshine, | Relative<br>Humidity,<br>9 a.m. |
| JANUARY ...   | 29.601                                                  | 33.2   | 53.5                    | 37.9                      | 29.9                      | 25.1                      | 30.0                                     | 93%                             |
| FEBRUARY ...  | 29.785                                                  | 41.4   | 69.2                    | 47                        | 36.7                      | 32.5                      | 41.0                                     | 84%                             |
| MARCH ...     | 29.347                                                  | 45.6   | 94.7                    | 50.5                      | 38.2                      | 32.3                      | 105.0                                    | 78%                             |
| APRIL ...     | 29.559                                                  | 45.1   | 99.8                    | 51.9                      | 37.5                      | 32.1                      | 104.3                                    | 78%                             |
| MAY ...       | 29.705                                                  | 51.1   | 112                     | 59.6                      | 41.3                      | 34.3                      | 229.0                                    | 63%                             |
| JUNE ...      | 29.753                                                  | 60.5   | 113.2                   | 69.2                      | 50.7                      | 43.6                      | 158.0                                    | 76%                             |
| JULY ...      | 29.771                                                  | 63     | 122.2                   | 72.9                      | 52                        | 43                        | 217.0                                    | 67%                             |
| AUGUST ...    | 29.574                                                  | 63.3   | 121.2                   | 71.1                      | 52.9                      | 42.6                      | 195.0                                    | 72%                             |
| SEPTEMBER ... | 29.720                                                  | 54.4   | 101.8                   | 61.7                      | 45.8                      | 34.3                      | 106.0                                    | 80%                             |
| OCTOBER ...   | 29.891                                                  | 48.5   | 94.9                    | 57.3                      | 41.9                      | 31.3                      | 106.0                                    | 225                             |
| NOVEMBER ...  | 29.898                                                  | 44.7   | 64.4                    | 51.4                      | 39.1                      | 30.4                      | 27.0                                     | 174                             |
| DECEMBER ...  | 29.608                                                  | 39.1   | 63.4                    | 46.7                      | 35.1                      | 24.7                      | 59.3                                     | 8                               |
| MEANS ...     | 29.684                                                  | 48.9   | 52.5                    | 56.4                      | 41.7                      | 33.8                      | 1367.0                                   | 40.1%                           |
|               |                                                         |        |                         |                           |                           |                           | 26.79                                    | 161                             |

DISTRIBUTION OF

CASES of INFECTIOUS DISEASE, 1897.

- = SCARLET FEVER.
- = TYPOID "
- \* = MALARIA.



DISTRIBUTION OF  
CASES of INFECTIOUS DISEASE, 1897.

- = SCARLET FEVER.
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